



CONTENTS

- Executive Committee - Happy New Year
- Executive Director - Consider a Task Group
- Technical Director - Jim Klinger to Handle Concrete Construction Hotline
- Decorative Concrete Council - Cold Weather Sealing
- Decorative Concrete Council - Silver Linings
- Concrete Polishing Council - Scheduling
- Safety & Risk Management Council - Reminder for Holiday Safety
- Safety & Risk Management Council - Relationship Between Safety & Productivity
- Safety Mentor & Mentee Applications
- New ACI 301-20 Specifications for Concrete Construction Released
- ACI Webinars
- ASCC Webinars

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

ASCC Committee Meetings

January 18-21, 2021

Via Zoom

[Registration Form](#)

[Registration Link](#)

ASCC Safety Roundtable

"Formwork Failures"

January 20, 2021

World of Concrete

June 8-10, 2021

Education: June 7-10, 2021

Las Vegas, NV

ASCC Concrete Executive Leadership Forum

July 15-18, 2021

Fairmont Orchid, Waimea, Hawaii

Welcome New Members

- America's Floor Source, Columbus, OH
- Anderson Commercial Concrete, Moline, IL
- Bomanite of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK
- Elegant Concrete Polishing, New Haven, CT
- Green Construction & Development, Newberry, FL
- Patriot Shotcrete, Jersey City, NJ

ASCC Annual Conference

September 23-26, 2021

St. Louis, MO

Message from the Executive Committee

Happy New Year

Kevin Riley, Treasurer

I don't know about everyone else but I think I am just about ready for 2020 to be over. Lucky for all of us that moment in time is just around the corner. However, despite all of the trials, tribulations and obstacles that 2020 put in our way we on the whole have met those challenges head on. We have all learned a lot about ourselves, how adaptive we can be, and how well we can overcome something so much bigger than ourselves.

Unfortunately, my friends, with the stroke of midnight on December 31st the biggest challenge we faced in 2020 is not going to magically disappear. We will still be wearing masks, socially distancing, and conducting most of our meetings virtually. But, despite the knowledge we will still be in the grips of this pandemic, I am hopeful that the things that we learned about ourselves and about one another in 2020 will carry us forward and through 2021 so we can travel and gather in person to share in the networking and camaraderie that are the foundation and cornerstone of this organization.

I wish all of you a happy and healthy holiday season, and cheers to safe and prosperous new year.

Executive Director's Message

Consider a Task Group

Bev Garnant

Looking for a way to become more involved in ASCC? Two relatively new task groups might be of interest. Our Workforce Development group is looking for national entities that would make good partners for ASCC to help us help new members attract workers, from craftspeople to management. Currently we're collaborating with NCCER's Build Your Future (BYF) program. Designed as a state model, they're exploring a pilot program with ASCC to develop a program that would work on a national platform.

Another new task group is Hard Hats to Helmets (H2H), organized to drive a specific action item in our strategic plan which directs us to have 75% of our contractor members transitioned to helmets by 2023. This group works on developing messaging to educate and encourage our members to consider the change.

In addition, our Decorative Concrete Council, Concrete Polishing Council and Safety & Risk Management Council all have subcommittees assigned to drive specific goals in their individual strategic plans. They cover everything from member engagement to marketing to technical publications.

Task groups are meant to have a shorter shelf life than committees. They have a "task", and once completed they're disbanded. If you'd like to be more involved, get to know more ASCC members and share your expertise by joining a task group, please let me know.

Technical Director

Jim Klinger to Handle Concrete Construction Hotline

Bruce Suprenant

You might not have met Jim yet, but you will. He has been assisting ASCC on developing company certification, especially related to the company certifications. And he is also involved in ACI committees for ASCC including: ACI 318A-General Concrete and Construction, ACI 134-Concrete Constructability and ACI/ASCC 117-Tolerances. Now Jim will also be answering the ASCC concrete construction hotline calls (800-331-0668) and emails (ascchotline@asconline.org), taking over for me after 4 years. I took over from the King of the Hotline, Ward Malisch, who had answered it for almost 30 years.

Jim has a unique background with a Masters in Structural Engineering from the University of Maryland and involvement in both engineering and construction of concrete structures for more than 40 years. Jim started work with Miller & Long in Maryland, then moved on to KCE Structural Engineers in Washington, D.C., and off to California to work for Martin, Middlebrook & Associates that changed to Martin, Middlebrook & Louie, and then to John A. Martin & Associates, and finally spending almost 30 years at the Conco Companies, from where he recently retired.

Jim has spent time as a construction administrator, quality control manager, project engineer, estimator, and project manager. His experience includes parking lots, parking garages, hotels, BART facilities, office buildings, apartment and condominium buildings, podium structures, the Oakland Bay Bridge, university facilities, stadiums, and the Salesforce Tower. Jim also has considerable shotcrete experience on basement walls.

Jim is a member of the American Concrete Institute (ACI) and the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE). He is the co-author of three ACI publications including "Constructability of Embedded Steel Plates in Cast-in-Place Concrete", which received the ACI Construction Practice Award in 2019. He is also published in ASCE, being a co-author of "Performance of Jointless Bridges" in the *ASCE Journal of Performance of Constructed Facilities*, 1988.

Jim looks forward to the questions that might arise on the ASCC concrete construction hotline. We hope you challenge him.

Concrete Polishing Council

Challenges to Overcome in the Polishing Industry: Scheduling Shawn Halverson, council director

Wouldn't it be nice if we could dictate our schedule to the client? That rarely happens in the commercial world of polishing, right? Scheduling has become a weekly hurdle for us, and I assume for many others.

We work for a variety of clients: GCs, concrete contractors, owners, other subs etc. And when they want it done it has to be that day. We are vigilant in looking ahead 3-4 weeks to see how the schedule is progressing. Never fails they want us tomorrow. "Well that ain't going to happen!"

Often we have locked in a day weeks ahead for a start date, planned our crews, mobilization scheduled, even packed the trucks or actually driven to the site to be told "Oh today doesn't work for us," even though we confirmed 10 times up to the day before! SO FRUSTRATING.

Each week we layout and discuss upcoming new projects, discuss ongoing timelines of crews and get it all worked out. We even call the gc or whomever to confirm start dates; and 8 out of 10 times it fails. Many times within hours it changes, UGH. So, what can we do as contractors to work this out? Is there a solution? Probably not a perfect one.

The best we have managed over the years is to continue weekly calls to the client, constant emails and conversations, job visits so they remember us face to face, and long term relationships. Once they have experienced polished concrete and its benefits, how willing we are to be flexible, help them out with job site clean ups, take care of small things they don't like, build relationships through many projects, they start to remember us in a different light. Not the grouchy, pissed off polishers of years past, but a friendly bunch of crazies; guys and girls who like to make concrete shine!

CPC Certification

CPC members Industrial Caulk and Seal, Abingdon, PA; Brownstone Concrete Surfaces, Rapid City, SD; and National Concrete Polishing, Richfield, OH have recently invested in CPC Polishing Certification.

The ACI/ASCC 310-0J Specification for Polished Concrete will be available to the public soon. The spec requires a CPC Certified Craftsman on every crew. These CPC members see the writing on the wall and are taking action now. CPC Tradesman is earned by passing the exam; Craftsman by obtaining the Tradesman Certification and having 4500 hours of verified work experience. [Get certified today.](#)

Decorative Concrete Council

Cold Weather Sealing

Chris Sullivan, decorative concrete specialist

Winter has arrived in many parts of the country. While outside work slows when it gets cold, it does not come to a complete stop. There are things to remember when working in cold temperatures, specifically when it comes to curing and sealing concrete. Generally, 45 - 50 degrees F (10 C) and rising is the accepted minimum temperature when applying most film-forming concrete sealers, cures, and coatings. That means it will not get any colder than 45F or 50F during the initial curing period after application. That number pertains to the temperature of the sealer, as well as the temperature of the air and the surface being treated. Penetrating sealers that do not form a film typically can be applied in temperatures below 50 F. In some cases, solvent based systems can be applied at lower temperatures. No matter the sealer or coating, always refer to the technical data sheet for application guidelines.

All film-forming sealers and coatings have a minimum film-forming temperature (MFT). When the temperature falls below the MFT, the sealer film does not come together properly. Typical signs that a sealer was applied below the MFT include haziness, weak sealer film and/or white, dusty powder on the sealer surface. If the sealer is compromised due to being applied below the MFT, in most cases it needs to be removed and a new application applied when the temperature rises. Blankets can be used to protect against severe cold, but you run the risk of blotchiness and color inconsistency.

In many cases you can seal or cure, it just comes down to using the right product designed for cold weather applications.

Silver Linings

Karen Keyes, council director

As we are in the midst of the holiday season, I can't help but reflect on the past year, despite my urge to repress most of the memories of 2020. So many people are saying how awful this year was. And true, it was not what any of us expected. I don't think any of us had "global pandemic" in our business plan SWOT analysis, but it did become a very real reality. It was a challenging year to say the least. I missed seeing many of you at in-person events, and I am thankful for the little bit of time we had together at the World of Concrete earlier this year. But I would like to look for the silver linings of the year, despite the challenges.

This year the Decorative Concrete Council had a record number of entries for its annual awards program showing spectacular work created around the world – congratulations to all of this year's winners!

Our association, who takes safety extremely seriously, buckled down and was there to support all of us through unprecedented times. I'm not sure about you, but I know I leaned on them several times throughout the year for guidance through this uncharted territory. I am proud to be a member of an association who cares about all the employees of its members, and is there to support each of us.

I am thankful for my MIX Group, although we had to cancel/postpone our in-person meetings – we still stayed in touch and checked in on each other.

My biggest takeaway for 2020 from the Decorative Concrete Council and ASCC side of my life is the overwhelming blessing of being part of a group like this – where everyone chips in to support each other – through the good times and the bad. Thank you everyone for being “there” whether in-person, via Zoom, email, text or phone call – I’m proud to have each of you as part of my concrete family.

DCC Project Awards Submission Now Open

To view the awards brochure and see more information about submitting online, [please visit our website](#).

Safety & Risk Management Council

A Wish for Happy Holidays and a Reminder for Holiday Safety Joe Whiteman, director of safety services

We are nearing the end of 2020 and welcoming the holiday season; time to spend with friends and family, along with participating in holiday traditions. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you of a few holiday safety statistics to help keep your mind focused on safety as you celebrate.

- Christmas tree and holiday decoration fires result in twice the injuries and five times more fatalities than the average winter fire.
- 50% of Christmas tree fires are due to candles or faulty lights or a tree placed too close to a heat source.
- Cooking-related house fires peak during the holiday season.
- The average temperature of oil used in a turkey fryer can cause burns up to 3rd degree.
- Roughly 5,800 people per year are treated in emergency rooms for falls associated with holiday decorations. More than half of these injuries are falls from ladders or roofs.
- Roughly 2000 people each year are treated for lacerations and sprains due to tripping over extension cords.

As we celebrate our holiday traditions it’s important not to leave safety at the office. The old saying goes, safety does not start and stop at the end of the shift. As ASCC members, we strive for safety to be part of all facets of our day, including at home.

Here are some safety tips to keep in mind as we head into the holidays:

- Only hang indoor lights indoors, and outdoor lights outdoors, and choose the correct ladder for the task.
- Turn off all lights and decorations when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Place candles where they cannot be knocked down or blown over and out of reach of children.
- Always use a screen on the fireplace when a fire is burning.
- Wash your hands frequently when handling food.
- Choose gifts appropriate for a child’s ability. Think beyond the gift itself. If a gift requires protective equipment, be sure to include it with the gift.
- Be sure to identify a designated driver should alcohol be consumed at a celebration, or utilize a car service.
- Continue to practice safe distancing, wash your hands regularly and follow guidelines for COVID-19 protocols.
- Lastly, if you are feeling the slightest bit ill, do not expose others until you are feeling well or have been tested to ensure you are not inadvertently exposing others.

With that being said, I’d like to wish you all a very safe and happy holiday.

**Relationship Between Safety and Productivity
Shari Bankston, director, Safety & Risk Management Council**

When planning a construction project, plans are developed based on people, resources, and budget. Planners are expected to simultaneously delineate safety and productivity goals for a project. All too often, however, they miss the connection between safety and productivity, and fall into a “safety vs. productivity” mindset. A question often looming in the back of a planner’s mind is, “What will I have to give up productivity-wise to make sure workers are safe?” This “safety vs. productivity” mindset emphasizes, albeit unintentionally, that safety is achieved *at the expense of productivity*. This often leads to flawed planning that focuses solely on productivity—quite often *at the expense of safety*.

Shifting from a “safety v. productivity” mindset to a “safety *and* productivity” mindset can be daunting. In construction planning, the inherent pressure to meet scheduling and budgeting objectives, both of which relate directly to productivity, can make this paradigm shift seem virtually impossible. Numerous studies conducted on this topic agree that not only does safety *not* stand in the way of productivity; it can actually *increase* productivity and, ultimately, profitability!

I would like to share with you a story about a CEO who did just that, by tackling one habit at a time. This CEO was committed to building new corporate habits, so much so that he modeled his safety plan on a habit loop. When he embarked on this journey, he had no idea the impact his model would have on his company. Though he never promised an increase in safety would increase profits, there was a domino effect, and it did!

The CEO was Paul O’Neill, and under his leadership Alcoa became known as one of the safest companies in the world. It all started with his first speech as CEO, which he opened with “I want to talk to you about worker safety....” No one, including O’Neill, could have predicted what this would mean for the organization. Alcoa would go on to enjoy years without lost time at work and an injury rate that fell to one-twentieth the national average.

By focusing on one corporate habit at a time, new routines were formed and the organization saw an increase in quality. Simultaneously, costs came down and productivity saw a sharp increase. One practical example that demonstrates O’Neill’s approach was how he resolved the issue of molten metal injuring his workers. When looking for possible solutions, O’Neill analyzed the entire process, looking for opportunities to not only reduce worker injury, but also improve the process as a whole. O’Neill completely redesigned the pouring system, which did, as expected, result in fewer injuries. What O’Neill did not realize, however, was that there would also be a reduction in raw material waste, significant enough to save the company a great deal of expense.

Let’s take a closer look and explore the ripple effect of O’Neill’s decision. In our molten metal splashing example, O’Neill achieved his primary objective of decreasing the number of worker injuries. However, this also led to reduced sick pay and workers’ compensation claims, decreased absenteeism, and decreased worker turnover. Simultaneously, worker morale improved and worker productivity increased because their motivation was higher. There was more cooperation between employees and upper management because workers were more engaged. The result—an 85 percent increase in workplace productivity. The cost/benefit ratio of O’Neill’s improvements was 1:10!

Remember: safety isn’t just about rules—it’s about controlling the flow of work and incorporating safety into the work, from the largest of processes to the smallest of tasks. Safety isn’t just about hazards—it’s about an improvement cycle. It’s about leveraging worker-driven intelligence—getting the intellectual input of the workers into the system every day through smart, safe execution plans (SSEPs), and then realigning and readjusting these plans based on worker feedback. By taking this approach, O’Neill was able to earn his company the reputation of being one of the safest companies in the world, and you can too.

“Success doesn’t depend on getting everything right, but instead relies on identifying a few key priorities and fashioning them into powerful levers.”

-Charles Duhigg

[Safety Mentor Application](#)

[Safety Mentee Application](#)

New ACI Specifications for Concrete Construction

The American Concrete Institute has released ACI 301-20, Specifications for Concrete Construction, along with the companion ACI Field Reference Manual.

ACI 301 is a reference specification that engineers, architects, and specifiers can apply to projects involving concrete construction. The scope of the new ACI 301-20 was expanded to include shotcrete, internal curing, mineral fillers, and recycled concrete aggregates. Evaluation requirements for concrete made with self-consolidating concrete and structures with defined requirements for modulus of elasticity of the concrete are also included. Compliance details throughout ACI 301-20 have been updated to align with ACI 318-19, Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete – providing clarity on the information engineers must provide in the construction documents.

Two checklists for incorporating ACI 301 into concrete specifications are included. The first indicates specific qualities, procedures, and performance criteria the specifier must include in a project specification that are not defined in ACI 301-20, while the second identifies choices and alternatives the specifier can include as requirements in a specification.

Along with the release of ACI 301-20, the Institute has also published a new ACI Field Reference Manual. The Manual includes the complete ACI 301-20 specifications and more than 20 selected reference documents on measuring, mixing, transporting, and placing concrete; concrete pumping methods; hot- and cold-weather concreting; consolidation; and concrete formwork – providing a convenient resource for use in field offices, jobsite trailers, and more.

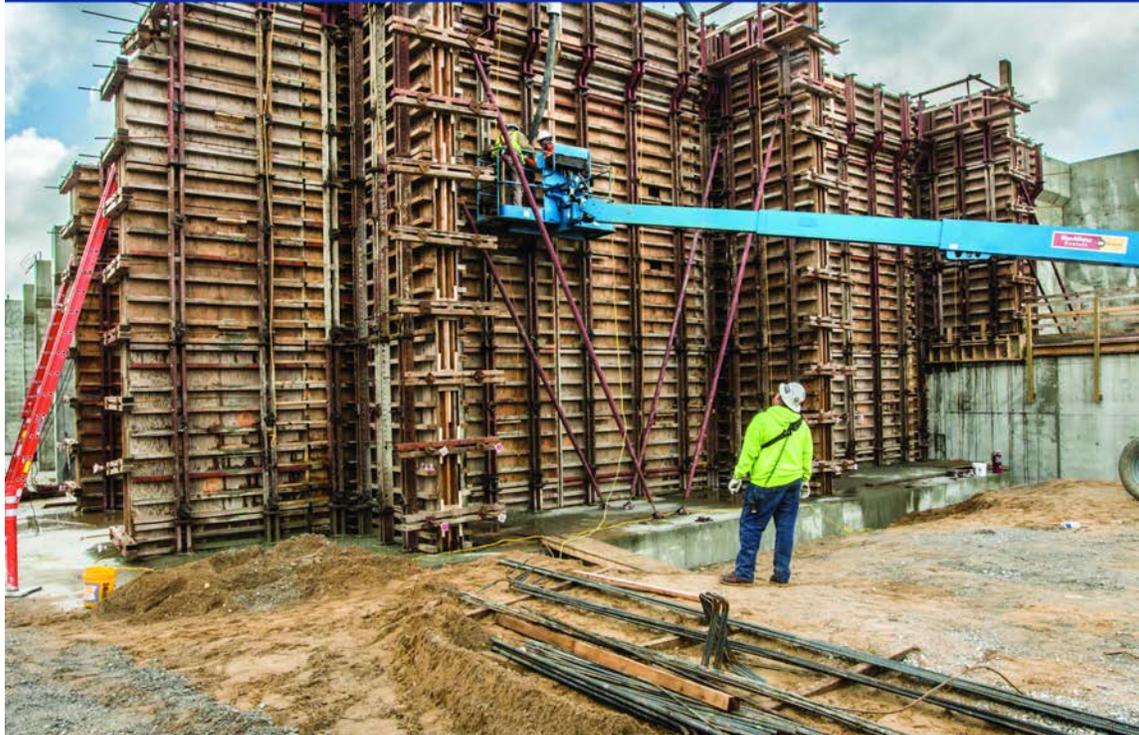
ACI Specifications for Concrete Construction and the ACI Field Reference Manual are both available in printed and digital formats. To assist users in navigating the changes to ACI 301-20, ACI University will be releasing an on-demand course. This online course will be presented by members of the ACI 301 committee and will provide insight on the revisions and updates in this new specification. To learn more or purchase any of these concrete construction products, visit concrete.org/store.



An ACI Manual

Field Reference Manual

ACI 301-20 Specifications for Concrete Construction
with Selected ACI References



MNL-15(20)



ACI Winter Concrete Forum Webinars

The Winter Concrete Forums presented by the National Concrete Pavement Technology Center are now open for registration. These forums will take place during the lunch hour from noon to 1:00 p.m. Central and you must be registered to attend.

- **January 8** - PCC Overlays – Fabric and Fiber
Discussion on new technologies for concrete overlays, including fiber-reinforced concrete and geotextile fabric interlayers, and their applications on recent Iowa projects.
- **January 22** - Subgrade & Subbase: Iowa DOT Research and Next Steps
Hear how the Iowa DOT is working to improve design and testing of subgrade and subbase layers for concrete pavements.

• **February 5** - Troubleshooting: Concrete Projects

Tips, tricks and advice for sorting through common problems during concrete pavement construction.

• **February 19** - Concrete Industry and the Environment – Sustainability and How Concrete is Reducing its Environmental Impact.

Learn how the cement and concrete industries are moving forward in the 21st century to adapt to environmental needs and reduce their carbon footprint.

• **March 5** - Construction Inspection – Just in Time Inspection Refresher

Whether you will be building or inspecting, gear up for a new year of concrete pavement construction with a refresher on best practices.

Attendance is FREE and 1 hour PDH certificates will be provided. To register, please email [Melisse Leopold](mailto:Melisse_Leopold) with the following information: name, organization, email and dates you would like to attend.

Upcoming ASCC Webinars

January 13, 2021

Concrete Overlays of Existing Asphalt Surfaced Streets & Parking Lots

Jon Hansen, NRMCA

February 10, 2021

Fiberglass Rebar & Dowels

Callie Elmore & Jon Fischer, Owens Corning

March 10, 2021

How to Win with Facebook Ads in 2021

Ryan Davis, Davis Construction Marketing

Webinars begin at 3 pm CST. [Register Here](#)

HOTLINE QUESTIONS

CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION

Jim Klinger
ascchotline@ascconline.org
800 - 331 - 0688

POLISHED CONCRETE

Chris Sullivan
csullivan@ascconline.org
844 - 923 - 4678

SAFETY & INSURANCE

Joe Whiteman
jwhiteman@ascconline.org
833 - 281 - 9602

DECORATIVE CONCRETE

Chris Sullivan
csullivan@ascconline.org
888 - 483 - 5288

ASCC members have access to these toll -free numbers for assistance.

Support Our Associate Sustaining Members

 **BEKAERT**

better together



Follow us on social media



American Society of Concrete Contractors
2025 S. Brentwood Blvd., Ste. 105
St. Louis, MO 63144
314-962-0210 or 866-788-2722
asconline.org